'Let Freedom Ring!'

Senate Probes Frederick Right-Wing Recording

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"Let freedom ring."

The voice over the telephone is deep, harsh and metallic. It continues after the proclamation with a measured attack on the Supreme Court and its alleged "pro - Communist" justices.

In an era of dial a prayer, a psychiatrist, or the weather it has become possible in Frederick to dial political propaganda from the "right wing."

Because the recordings are anonymous and highly controversial a U.S. Senate sub-committee is undertaking a study to determine if legislation is feasible to check the practice.

A ring of the "right" telephone number in towns and cities across the country triggers the attack on the Supreme Court or charges that national magazines bamboozle the public on Communism.

The Frederick recording is apparently one produced by a conservative Florida organization, "Let Freedom Ring." Its head, Dr. William C. Douglass of Sarasota, reportedly originated the technique.

The organization is endorsed by leaders of the John Birch Society and the Conservative Society of America. The ultra right Minutemen have also adopted the technique.

Generally the number is advertised, inviting the reader to call, but the News-Post obtained it when a well known Frederick resident wrote a protest letter to the editor.

The correspondent criticized the recordings as, "un-democratic."

Dialing the number triggers a recording which stentoriously intones "Let Freedom ring."

Then follows: "The United States Supreme Court because of its pro - Communist decisions and reckless disregard for decency, law and order has lost the confidence of the American people."

"That this should happen is not surprising after examining the strange left wing backgrounds of many of the judges."

After listing the justices' many alleged Pro - Communist leanings, the message adds, "with these sinister backgrounds it is no wonder that Rep. John Bell Williams says that the Supreme Court is conspiring to communize America."

(Williams is a conservative Mississippi congressman)

A later ring of the number brought an attack on the nation's large circulation magazines including Look, Life and the Saturday Evening Post, for failing to inform the public on communism.

One of these, it charges, pub-

(Continued On Page Five)

RECORDING

(Continued From Page One)

lished more than 60 pro-Communist articles in a six-year period.

The disembodied voice suggests reading the conservative magazine, "American Opinion". But if this "loyal American magazine" isn't on the news stands you probably can find a Russian periodical, the voice sarcastically declares.

A further charge is that the American taxpayer is subsidizing the Russian periodical.

The Senate study, which may include hearings next year, will be conducted by the Commerce Sub-committee on Communications.

Its chairman, Sen. John O. Pastore, (D-R.I.), says the major question involves identification given the public in statements over the airwaves.

The head of the Federal Communications Commission, E. William Henry, says his agency can't require identification of phone sources without legislation.

This has been proposed by lawmakers. A bill prepared by Rep. James H. Scheuer, (D-N.Y.) last year was not presented after civil liberties groups informed him it might be unconstitutional.

A spokesman for the Atlantic Telephone and Telegraph Company said the company is powerless to monitor or censor the recordings but wouldn't oppose controlling legislation.

While the recordings aren't identified here, a Frederick City Post Office number is given for a booklet attacking Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court.

The message attacking magazines provides a Sarasota, Fla., box number for a copy of "The American Opinion."